



"The Postage Stamp is Our World"

The

Volunteer State

Philatelic Gazette



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The Battle of New Orleans

The Battle of New Orleans was a series of engagements fought between December 24, 1814 through January 8, 1815 and was the final major battle of the War of 1812. American combatants, commanded by Major General Andrew Jackson, prevented an invading British Army, commanded by General Edward Pakenham, and Royal Navy, commanded by Admiral Alexander Cochrane, from seizing New Orleans as a strategic tool to end the war. The Treaty of Ghent was signed on December 24, 1814 (but was not ratified by the US Government until February 1815), and hostilities would continue in Louisiana until January 18 when all of the British forces had retreated, finally putting an end to the Battle of New Orleans.

By December 12, 1814, a large British fleet under the command of Sir Alexander Cochrane with more than 8,000 soldiers and sailors aboard, had anchored in the Gulf of Mexico to the east of Lake Pontchartrain and Lake Borgne. Preventing access to the lakes was an American flotilla, commanded by Lieutenant Thomas ap Catesby Jones, consisting of five gunboats. On December 14, around 1,200 British sailors and Royal Marines under Captain Nicholas Lockyer set out to attack Jones' force. Lockyer's men sailed in 42 longboats, each armed with a small carronade. Lockyer captured Jones' vessels in a brief engagement known as the Battle of Lake Borgne. 17 British sailors were killed and 77 wounded, while 6 Americans were killed, 35 wounded, and 86 captured. The wounded included both Jones and Lockyer. Now free to navigate Lake Borgne, thousands of British soldiers, under the command of General John Keane, were rowed to Pea Island, about 30 miles (48 km) east of New Orleans, where they established a garrison.

Welcome to the Nashville Stamp Show 2015. Our theme for our show is the 200th Anniversary of the Battle of New Orleans. This year we have 18 stamp, 1 post card, and 1 cachet dealer from all over the country. They have varied stocks of stamps and post cards from the US and the rest of the world. Please stop by for a visit and have a look. The dealers are always ready to help and answer your questions. Our stamp club maintains tables at the entrance to help our fellow stamp collectors with any questions, problems, or just stop by and chat. But first and foremost have a lot of fun at our stamp show!

Matt Benward, President NPS

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 * STAMP CLUB NEWS *

Nashville Stamp Show 2015

Our annual stamp show is being held this year at 50 Forward Madison Station and is located at 301 Madison Street in Madison Tennessee. It is located behind Madison Square shopping Center. Hopefully this will be our home for years to come. Lastly as always we can't have our annual stamp shown without volunteers. So if you help out please let us know so we can make our 2015 stamps show a great success! Have fun and make the dealers happy.

David Rizor

David Rizor passed away on November 24, 2014. He had been member of our stamp in the past and had rejoined in the first meeting of November. Also, he had joined the Brentwood stamp club in October. He collected U.S. stamps.

Adventure Science Center Collectors' Fair

The Cumberland Science Museum had its annual Collectors' Fair on March 7th. Tom Tribke and I attended to represent our club. We gave out stamp packets to kids and advertised our stamp show.

Nick Munn needs "Cool Postage" items

Nick needs some "Cool Postage" items for exhibits at our show. "Cool Postage" items are envelopes with lots of old stamps. Bring them to the club.

Articles for the newsletter

I need articles for this newsletter on any aspect of stamp collecting. They can be hand written, typed, or by computer in any format. I would be willing to help write them too. I have been getting some articles during the last few months, but I still need some more. If you see interesting articles in the philatelic press, please let me know. You may contact me at the club meetings or at mbenward@aol.com. Thanks.

New Members

Robert Edson

The Volunteer State
 Philatelic Gazette

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Matt Benward
 Editor-in-Chief

Tom Tribke
 Associate Editor

Editorial Consultants:
 Marie Farmer

Matt Benward	President
Al Bollmeier	First Vice-President
David Bodkin	Second Vice-President
Wesley Lepter	Jr. Vice-President
Tom Tribke	Secretary
Ray McIntire	Treasurer
Marie Farmer	Delegate-at-Large

Meetings: Second and Fourth Mondays of each month. Buy and swap at 5:30 p.m., Business meeting at 6:30 p.m., and Program at 6:45 p.m.

Meetings are held at the Madison Branch Library, 610 South Gallatin Road, Nashville, Tennessee 37216.

Kids under 17 get a FREE stamp packet at their first attendance. Ages 6 and up are WELCOME!

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Opinions expressed in THE GAZETTE are those of the writers. These opinions do not necessarily reflect the views of the Nashville Philatelic Society or its members.

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The Nashville Philatelic Society is a non-profit organization.

Nashville Philatelic Society

Minutes Review for November 2014 – February 2015

The NPS held its 11/10/14 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Eighteen members and two guests were present. Minutes of the 10/27/14 meeting was read and approved. The NPS membership was pleased to welcome David Rizor back to active membership. Al Bollmeier won the door prize. Bill Bowman won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Steve Meyer advised that 2015 Collectors' Show at the Nashville Science Center would be held on March 7, 2015. Reports were presented from the Phone and Stamp committees. Jim Young donated stamps to the Stamps Committee. Thank you! Copies of the new NPS newsletters were distributed. The business session then adjourned for an interesting talk on "How to Mount (or Not Mount) Stamps" by Al Bollmeier, Matt and the NPS members.

The NPS meeting for 11/24/14 was held at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty members and three guests were present. Minutes of the 10/27/14 meeting was read and approved. Applications for NPS membership received from Allen Bartine and Byron Personett were given first reading. Bill Bowman won the door prize. Larry Pacl won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Stamp and Social Media committees. Larry Pacl donated stamps to the Stamps Committee. Thank you! Social media reports that our sites had 81 "likes" on Facebook and 516 "followers" on Tweeter. The business session then adjourned for the monthly auction.

NPS held its annual Christmas party on 12/8/2014 at the Madison Branch Library. Approximately eighteen members and guests joined together for fellowship and plenty of good food!!!

The NPS held its 1/12/15 meeting at the Shoney's Restaurant, due to Library schedule conflicts, with Matt Benward presiding. Thirteen members and three guests were present. Minutes of the 11/24/14 meeting were read and approved. An informal report was also given on our Christmas meeting held on December 8, 2014. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Stamp, Social Media and Stamp Show committees. Al Bollmeier donated to the Stamps Committee. Thank you! Matt reported that thirteen stamp dealers were committed for the NPS 2015 Stamp Show. Al Bollmeier handed out a list of Potential Programs for 2015. Nick Munn brought up a concern about the availability of judges for our show exhibits. Matt asked for help with the setup and takedown of the Show. The business session was then adjourned for an excellent presentation by Matt and Al on "Preparing Show Exhibits".

The NPS had its 1/26/15 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty-four members and three guests were present. Minutes of the 1/12/15 meeting were read and approved. Bill Bowman won the door prize. Ellie Eads won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Steve Meyer mentioned that the "Collectors' Fair" at the Science Museum was to be held on March 7, 2015. Reports were presented from the Phone, Stamp, Social Media and Stamp Show committees. Al Bollmeier donated to the Stamps Committee. Thank you! Nick Munn reported that he had a commitment from Liz Hisey, an APS qualified judge, to evaluate for our show exhibits. Matt reported that fifteen stamp dealers had committed for the show. Matt asked for help for show setup and takedown. The business session was then adjourned for the monthly auction.

The NPS had its 2/9/15 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Nineteen members and two guests were present. Minutes of the 1/26/15 meeting were read and approved. Robert Edson's application for NPS membership received first reading. Norma Pacl won the door prize. Dave Bodkin won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Stamp and Social Media committees. Ken Auerweck reported that our Facebook site had 93 "likes" and that our Twitter site had 535 "followers". Ray McIntire gave a partial Treasurer's Report for the show. Matt reported that seventeen stamp dealers had committed for the show. Show flyers were provided for distribution. Nick Munn distributed Show Exhibit forms for exhibitors. Nick also expressed concern about sufficient room for the Show exhibits. Matt asked for help with the setup and takedown of the 2015 Stamp Show. The business session was then adjourned for an excellent presentation on "The 100 Greatest American Stamps – Part 1" by Al Bollmeier.

NPS held its 2/23/15 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Thirteen members and three guests were present. Minutes of the 2/9/15 meeting were read and approved. Robert Edson's application for NPS membership received second reading, was approved and he was welcomed to NPS membership. Al Bollmeier won the door prize. Nick Munn won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Stamp, Social Media and Show committees. Richard Smith reported that our Facebook site had 96 "likes". Show posters and flyers were provided for distribution. Tom Tribke displayed the cached cover formats for 2015 Show covers. Matt asked for help with the setup and takedown of the Show. Matt reported that seventeen stamp and postcard dealers would be at our Show. Randy Coble reported a conflict with Army Reserve Drill that would prevent him from dropping off the "Frames Trailer" on Friday (3/13/2015) for show setup. Nick Munn volunteered to pick up the trailer from Randy. The business session was then adjourned for the monthly auction.

Nashville Philatelic Society

Minutes Review for July 2014 – October 2014

The NPS had its 7/14/14 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Fifteen members and three guests were present. Minutes of the 6/23/14 meeting were read and approved. Rudy Caduff won the door prize. Virginia Smith won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone and Stamp committees. A donation of stamps was received from Al Bollmeier for the Stamps Committee. Thank you! Nick Munn suggested that dealers be asked for donations for door prizes for the 2015 Nashville Stamp Show. The business session was then adjourned for an "Ice Cream Social".

The NPS had its 7/28/14 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Nineteen members and one guest were present. Minutes of the 7/14/14 meeting were read and approved. Jim Young won the door prize. Dave Bodkin won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone and Stamp committees. David Erbach and Larry Pacl donated stamps to the Stamps Committee. Thank you! The business session was then adjourned for the monthly auction.

The NPS held its 8/11/14 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Twelve members and one guest were present. Minutes of the 7/28/14 meeting were read and approved. Jim Cate won the door prize. Al Bollmeier won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone and Stamp committees. Marie Farmer reported that a stamp donation was received from Larry Pacl. Thank you! Matt again asked for theme recommendations for the 2015 Stamp Show. The business session was then adjourned for an excellent talk on "Collecting the Stamps of Switzerland" by Al Bollmeier and Rudy Caduff.

The NPS held its 8/25/14 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty-three members and three guests were present. Minutes of the 8/11/14 meeting were read and approved. Richard Smith won the door prize. Ben Price won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone and Stamp committees. The Erbachs and Larry Pacl donated stamps to the Stamps Committee. Thank you! Matt gave a partial report on our social media websites with 470+ "followers" on Twitter and 70+ "likes" on Facebook. Suggestions for our 2015 Show theme were again requested. The business session was then adjourned for the monthly auction.

The NPS held its 9/8/14 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Thirteen members and three guests were present. Minutes of the 8/25/14 meeting were read and approved. An application for NPS Membership from Clay Morgan received first reading. Rudy Caduff won the door prize. Marie Farmer won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. A report was presented from the Phone and Stamps Committees. Larry Pacl donated stamps to the Stamps Committee. Thank you! A report was given on our social media websites with 488 "followers" on Twitter and 74 "likes" on Facebook. Tom Tribke mentioned that the voting on the 2015 Show theme would be held during our next meeting. The business session was then adjourned for an excellent presentation and computer program by Matt and Al Bollmeier on "How to Find and Buy Stamps".

The NPS had its 9/22/14 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty members and two guests were present. Minutes of the 9/8/14 meeting were read and approved. An Application for NPS Membership from Clay Morgan received second reading and he was approved and welcomed to NPS membership. Marie Farmer won the door prize. Al Bollmeier won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone and Stamp committees. Larry Pacl donated stamps to the Stamps Committee. Thank you! Voting on the 2015 Show theme was held and the "Battle of New Orleans" was the winning theme selection. The business session was then adjourned for the monthly auction.

The NPS held its 10/14/14 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Our meeting was held on Tuesday due library closing for Columbus Day. Fifteen members and two guests were present. Minutes of the 9/22/14 meeting were read and approved. John Jenrix won the door prize. Richard Stimeck won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone and Stamps committees. A "Get Well" card was sent to Frank Yost. Ray McIntire provided a Treasurer's Report that was reviewed and approved. Ballots were handed out to vote on the theme for the 2015 Show. Nick Munn mentioned that exhibits were needed for the 2015 Show and handed out Applications for Show Exhibits. The business session then adjourned for an excellent talk and computer presentation on "Philatelic Fakes" by Al Bollmeier.

The NPS held its 10/27/14 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Eighteen members and three guests were present. Minutes of the 10/14/14 meeting were read and approved. Ora Eads won the door prize. Bruce Tribke won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Nick Munn commented upon a stamp issue from Finland and Matt and Al Bollmeier reported on the Evansville Show. Reports were presented from the Phone, Stamp and Social Media committees. The Erbachs donated stamps to the Stamps Committee. Thank you! Social media reports that our sites had 77 "likes" on Facebook and 500+ "followers" on Tweeter. Tom Tribke announced the NPS theme selected for the 2015 Stamp Show was the "200th Anniversary of the Battle of New Orleans". The business session then adjourned for the monthly auction.

The Battle of New Orleans

On the morning of December 23, Keane and a vanguard of 1,800 British soldiers reached the east bank of the Mississippi River, 9 miles (14 km) south of New Orleans. Keane could have attacked the city by advancing for a few hours up the river road, which was undefended all the way to New Orleans, but he made the fateful decision to encamp at Lacoste's Plantation and wait for the arrival of reinforcements. During the afternoon of December 23, after he had learned of the position of the British encampment, Andrew Jackson reportedly said, "By the Eternal they shall not sleep on our soil." This intelligence had been provided by Colonel Thomas Hinds' Squadron of Light Dragoons, a militia unit from the Mississippi Territory. That evening, attacking from the north, Jackson led 2,131 men in a brief three-pronged assault on the unsuspecting British troops, who were resting in their camp. Then Jackson pulled his forces back to the Rodriguez Canal, about 4 miles (6.4 km) south of the city. The Americans suffered 24 killed, 115 wounded, and 74 missing, while the British reported their losses as 46 killed, 167 wounded, and 64 missing.

Historian Robert Quimby says, "the British certainly did win a tactical victory, which enabled them to maintain their position." However, Quimby goes on to say, "It is not too much to say that it was the battle of December 23 that saved New Orleans. The British were disabused of their expectation of an easy conquest. The unexpected and severe attack made Keane even more cautious...he made no effort to advance on the twenty-fourth or twenty-fifth." As a consequence, the Americans were given time to begin the transformation of the canal into a heavily fortified earthwork. On Christmas Day, General Edward Pakenham arrived on the battlefield and ordered a reconnaissance-in-force on December 28 against the American earthworks protecting the advance to New Orleans. That evening, General Pakenham met with General Keane and Admiral Cochrane for an update on the situation, angry with the position that the army had been placed in. General Pakenham wanted to use Chef Menteur Road as the invasion route but was overruled by Admiral Cochrane who insisted that his boats were providing everything that could be needed. Admiral Cochrane believed that the British Army would destroy a ramshackle American army and allegedly said that if the Army would not do so his sailors would. Whatever Pakenham's thoughts on the matter, the meeting settled the method and place of the attack.

When the British reconnaissance-in-force withdrew, the Americans began construction of earthworks to protect the artillery batteries, which were then christened Line Jackson. The Americans installed eight batteries, which included one 32-pound gun, three 24-pounders, one 18-pounder, three 12-pounders, three 6-pounders, and a 6-inch (150 mm) howitzer. Jackson also sent a detachment of men to the west bank of the Mississippi to man two 24-pounders and two 12-pounders from the grounded warship USS Louisiana. Jackson's force was outnumbered by the attacking British forces. Jackson's army of 4,732 men comprised 968 US Army regulars, 58 US Marines, 106 seamen of the US Naval battalion, 1,060 Louisiana Militia and volunteers (including 462 free people of color), 1,352 Tennessee Militia, 986 Kentucky Militia, 150 Mississippi Militia and 52 Choctaw warriors, along with a force of the pirate Jean Lafitte's Baratarians. Additionally, Jackson had the support of warships in the Mississippi River, including the USS Louisiana, the USS Carolina and a steamboat Enterprise,

The main British army arrived on New Year's Day 1815, and attacked the earthworks using their artillery. An exchange of artillery fire began that lasted for three hours. Several of the American guns were destroyed or knocked out, including the 32-pounder, a 24-pounder, and a 12-pounder, and some damage was done to the earthworks. The British guns ran out of ammunition, which led Pakenham to cancel the attack. Unknown at the moment to Pakenham, the Americans on the left of Line Jackson near the swamp had broken and run from the position. Pakenham decided to wait for his entire force of over 8,000 men to assemble before launching his attack.

The Battle of New Orleans

In the early morning of January 8, Pakenham ordered a two-pronged assault against Jackson's position. Colonel William Thornton (of the 85th Regiment) was to cross the Mississippi during the night with his 780-strong force, move rapidly upriver and storm the battery commanded by Commodore Daniel Patterson on the flank of the main American entrenchments and then open an enfilading fire on Jackson's line with howitzers and rockets. Then, the main attack, directly against the earthworks manned by the vast majority of American troops, would be launched in two columns (along the river led by Keane and along the swamp line led by Major General Samuel Gibbs). The brigade commanded by Major General John Lambert was held in reserve.

Preparations for the attack had floundered early, as a canal being dug by Cochrane's sailors collapsed and the dam made to divert the flow of the river into the canal failed, leaving the sailors to drag the boats of Col. Thornton's west bank assault force through deep mud and left the force starting off just before daybreak, 12 hours late.

The attack began under darkness and a heavy fog, but as the British neared the main enemy line the fog lifted, exposing them to withering artillery fire. Lt-Col. Thomas Mullins, the British commander of the 44th (East Essex) Regiment of Foot, had forgotten the ladders and fascines needed to cross a canal and scale the earthworks, and confusion evolved in the dark and fog as the British tried to close the gap. Most of the senior officers were killed or wounded, including General Gibbs, leading the main attack column on the right comprising the 4th, 21st, 44th and 5th West India Regiments, and Colonel Rennie leading a detachment of light companies of the 7th, 43rd, and 93rd on the left by the river.

Possibly because of Thornton's delay in crossing the river and the withering artillery fire that might hit them from across the river, the 93rd Highlanders were ordered to leave Keane's assault column advancing along the river and move across the open field to join the main force on the right of the field. Keane fell wounded as he crossed the field with the 93rd. Rennie's men managed to attack and overrun an American advance redoubt next to the river, but without reinforcements they could neither hold the position nor successfully storm the main American line behind. Within minutes, the American 7th Infantry arrived, moved forward, and fired upon the British in the captured redoubt: within half an hour, Rennie and most of his men were dead. In the main attack on the right, the British infantrymen either flung themselves to the ground, huddled in the canal, or were mowed down by a combination of musket fire and grapeshot from the Americans. A handful made it to the top of the parapet on the right but were either killed or captured. The 95th Rifles had advanced in open skirmish order ahead of the main assault force and were concealed in the ditch below the parapet, unable to advance further without support.

The two large main assaults on the American position were repulsed. Pakenham and his second-in-command, General Gibbs, were fatally wounded, while on horseback, by grapeshot fired from the earthworks. With most of their senior officers dead or wounded, the British soldiers, having no orders to advance further or retreat, stood out in the open and were shot apart with grapeshot from Line Jackson. After about 20 more minutes of bloodletting, General Lambert assumed command and eventually ordered a withdrawal.

The only British success was on the west bank of the Mississippi River, where Thornton's brigade, comprising the 85th Regiment and detachments from the Royal Navy and Royal Marines, attacked and overwhelmed the American line. Though both Jackson and Commodore Patterson reported that the retreating forces had spiked their cannon, leaving no guns to turn on the Americans' main defense line, this is contradicted by Major Mitchell's diary which makes it clear this was not so, as he states he had "Commenced cleaning enemy's guns to form a battery to enfilade their lines on the left bank". General Lambert ordered his Chief of Artillery, Colonel Alexander Dickson, to assess the position. Dickson reported back that no fewer than 2,000 men would be needed to hold the position. General Lambert issued orders to withdraw after the defeat of their main army on the east bank and retreated, taking a few American prisoners and cannon with them.

At the end of the day, the British had 2,042 casualties: 291 killed (including Generals Pakenham and Gibbs), 1,267 wounded (including General Keane) and 484 captured or missing. The Americans had 71 casualties: 13 dead; 39 wounded, and 19 missing.

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